

innocent persons by firing in the crowded area of Connaught Place in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an inquiry has been conducted into the said incident;

(d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry;

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty;

(f) whether the National Human Rights Commission has expressed concern over the increasing incidents of fake encounters in the country; and

(g) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) Two persons were killed in a shoot out incident at Connaught Place, New Delhi on the 31st March, 1997 allegedly under mistaken identity.

(c) to (e) The investigation of the case has been handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). 15 Police Officials directly involved in the shoot out incident have in the meantime been placed under suspension.

(f) and (g) The Chairman, National Human Rights Commission in his letter dated the 29th March, 1997 addressed to all the Chief Ministers of the State Governments brought to their notice that the Commission had been receiving complaints that instance of fake encounters by the police were on the increase, and recommended certain guidelines to be followed by all the States in connection with handling of cases relating to encounters. The Commission have informed that some of the State Governments which responded in the matter had indicated that the authorities concerned had been directed to follow the guidelines laid down by the Commission in letter and spirit.

Import of Hazardous Waste

* 532. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is reported at various quarters that inspite of Delhi High Court's ban on waste import, the quantity of toxic lead waste brought into India from the industrialised nations like Australia and USA has doubled in the past year;

(b) if so, whether the Government have assessed the authenticity of such reports;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Central Pollution Control Board has recently issued directives under the Basel convention to its State units to monitor industries importing waste;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken in this regard and to fulfil the Basel agreement calling for a ban on trading in toxic wastes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) A news item on import of toxic wastes appeared in the *Times of India*, New Delhi on 7th April, 1997 and an additional affidavit was also filed in Writ Petition No. 657/95 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by the Petitioner, Director, Research Foundation for Science, Technology & Ecology, New Delhi on the subject.

As per information made available by the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce, lead scraps identified by their, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Inc., Washington (ISRI), codes Racks, Radio, Relays, Ropes and Roses under the Export & Import (EXIM) code No. 780200 00.10 and battery Scrap identified by their ISRI codes Rails and Rakes under EXIM code No. 8548 1000.10 were made freely importable vide notification No. 4/92-97 dated 11.07.96. The DGFT has also not issued any import licence for lead wastes/battery scrap during the period from 1.4.96 to 31.3.97. From 1.4.97 lead wastes/battery scrap have again been restricted for imports.

The import of hazardous wastes is regulated under Rule 11 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. According to these rules exporters are to seek permission from the Ministry of Environment & Forests and the importer has to apply to the State Pollution Control Board of import permission. The licence for imports is granted by the DGFT.

The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi on 10.4.1996 in Writ Petition No. 67/96-M/s. Harshwardhan Steel Vs. Union of India and Others ordered that the Government of India should ensure that no toxic waste is imported into the country. The High Court also stayed all imports of zinc and lead skimmings/ash on 2.4.1997 in a Public Interest Litigation Writ Petition No. 1331/97. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has not granted any permission after the Delhi High Court order of 10.4.1996 and has also written to all the State Pollution Control Board to comply with the High Court's order.

(d) to (f) The Central Pollution Control Board have not issued any specific direction to the State units to monitor industries importing wastes. The Ministry of Environment & Forests have directed the State Governments and State Pollution Control Boards to take necessary action under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for taking expeditious action to implement Hazardous Wastes

(Management & Handling) Rules, 1989. On 22.4.1997, the Ministry of Environment & Forests has written to all the State Chief Secretaries asking them to monitor units reprocessing/recycling imported hazardous wastes.

India signed the Basel Convention on 15th March, 1990 and ratified it on 24th June, 1992. The Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Basel Convention in its 12th session finalised the draft position paper on hazard characterization and classification of wastes within the frame-work of the Basel Convention. The 'List A' hazardous waste indicated in the position paper if adopted in the 4th Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention to be held in October, 1997, will be banned for transboundary movement from 31st December, 1997.

In Writ Petition No. 657/95, on 5.5.1997 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India have ordered a ban on imports of all hazardous wastes covered under the Basel Convention.

[Translation]

Fruits and Vegetables Production

*533. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of fruits and vegetables has been continuously increasing in the country for the past few years;

(b) if so, the total production of fruits and vegetables in the country during Eighth Five Year Plan period as compared to 1991-92, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of total export of fruits and vegetables during the said period;

(d) whether *per capita* availability of fruits and vegetables is still lower than their *per capita* requirement;

(e) if so, the estimated annual requirement and availability of fruits and vegetables in the country; and

(f) the reaction of the Government in regard to imposing a ban on export of fruits and vegetable to bridge the gap between demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :
(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The latest data on production is available upto 1994-95. The production of fruits and vegetables during 1994-95 was 38.83 M.T. and 67.24 million tonnes respectively. The State-wise and year-wise production data is given in Statement-I.

(c) The details of year-wise export of fruits and vegetables are given in Statement-II.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The annual requirement of fruits and vegetables is about 54 million tonnes and 118 million tonnes respectively against which a quantity of 38.83 million tonnes of fruits and 67.24 million tonnes of vegetables was available in 1994-95.

(f) The Government is not proposing any ban on the export of fruits and vegetables as the total export of fruits and vegetables accounts for less than 1% of the total production.

Statement-I

Production of Fruits and Vegetables

(Production in MT)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Fruits				Vegetables			
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4008230	4766421	5022836	5161528	1452583	1368068	1420029	2341204
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	47308	49257	50266	50266	79947	79947	80117	80117
3.	Assam	886381	1103020	1166423	1296173	2137273	1754355	1931874	1970007
4.	Bihar	2799250	3358983	3583817	3378162	8643080	16200449	13610198	11726318
5.	Delhi	690	4218	9581	1584	627816	735164	463897	551232
6.	Goa	84200	88260	88260	121450	-	-	-	65000
7.	Gujarat	1828880	1915000	2243756	2447664	1667900	1556500	1869900	1729800